

The Pentagon, just a few miles from the nation's capital, was a hotbed of volunteer activity. Americans from all over the country put busy lives on hold, taking leave from their jobs and responsibilities at home, some using cherished annual vacation leave, to reach out to fellow citizens. Touring the Pentagon's south parking lot last week, you might find the North Carolina Baptist Men's Association faithfully serving day in and day out, or a church group from Louisiana which had driven through the night only to cook large kettle pots of jambalaya. And of course there were two organizations, which have become a mainstay at disaster sights throughout the country, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. All of these groups, many of them faith based, were instrumental both in the tangible parts of the relief operation, which included blood drives and food preparation, and in the intangible parts, like lifting the spirits of weary rescue workers.

Another organization which was a pivotal part of the relief effort at the Pentagon was Christ in Action, based out of Manassas, Virginia, which is part of Virginia's 10th Congressional district. It is a nonprofit organization

which was founded in January 1982 by Dr. Denny and Sandy Nissley.

Christ in Action prepared and served a remarkable 3,000 to 5,000 meals each day. In the twilight hours of the evening and the hours before sunrise, they and their team of volunteers diligently prepared up to 500 breakfasts to be ready by 5 a.m., for distribution to various areas of the Pentagon where workers could not leave their posts. Between 5–9 a.m., they served another 1,000 to 1,500 breakfasts. And that was just one meal cycle.

Christ in Action's tent was designated the "official" meal place for the entire relief effort by an office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The relief workers that were permitted to leave their sites often retreated to the Christ in Action tent as a treasured respite from the arduous task before them. Located just 200 feet from the crash site, the tent was near the intersection of two newly created "streets" in this impromptu tent city, American Way and Freedom Lane. A large American flag hung behind the stage in the tent, from which various military bands performed during the lunch hour each day, and cards and letters from students and children around the country were

gathered in boxes at the foot of the stage, to be read by workers in need of some encouragement during the course of the day.

In this time of need, Christ in Action found strength in its unyielding faith, and has displayed an outpouring of love and warmth to countless relief workers from across the country. Christ in Action answered a call to service before the call was even sounded and in doing so gave us a glimpse of the spirit which will carry our nation through this trying time.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 4, 2001*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on the amendment offered by Mr. HOSTETTLER to the FY02 District of Columbia Appropriations bill on September 25, 2001, rollcall No. 354, I was unavoidably detained on official businesses. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".